

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/635,785

Examiner

Stephen F. Gerrity

Applicant(s)

HIRAMOTO, SHINICHI

Art Unit

3721

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the new application filed 5 August 2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 05 August 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☒ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 8/5/03
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Art Unit: 3721

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. William Androlia (applicant's representative) on 9 August 2004.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

In the specification:

Page 2, line 21, delete "impulse" and insert -ultrasonic-.

Page 9, line 25, delete "of".

In the claims:

Claim 1, between lines 21 and 22 insert the following:

- releasing the filled bags from the grippers;-

Claim 1, line 24, change "said filled" to -said taken out filled-.

Claim 3, line 25, after "device" insert -to advance-.

Explanation for Examiner's Amendment

4. The specification has been amended at page 2, line 21, and at page 9, line 25, to correct editorial errors.

Art Unit: 3721

Claim 1 has been amended to provide a manipulative step for the grippers and to clarify the order of the steps of the method. The amendments to claim 1 are also necessary to distinguish the claimed subject matter over the prior art, in particular, Kupcikevicius (US 5,062,252). Claim 3 has been amended to correct an editorial error so that it is clear that the horn is advanced.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen Gerrity. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rinaldi Rada, may be contacted. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the TC 3700 receptionist.

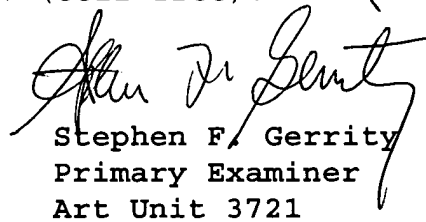
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on

Application/Control Number: 10/635,785

-4-

Art Unit: 3721

access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Stephen F. Gerrity
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3721

Examiner's Telephone Number: 703-308-1279

Examiner's Work Schedule: Monday-Friday from 5:30 - 2:00

Supervisor's Telephone Number: 703-308-2187

Facsimile Telephone Number: 703-872-9306

Receptionist Telephone Number: 703-308-1148

9 August 2004